

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
The State University of New Jersey
INSTITUTE OF MICROBIOLOGY

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NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY
CHARTER 7-1766

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Department of Genetics
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I'm really surprised, after poor Mark Adams' devastating blast at the Macy Foundation Symposium, that you found anything worth reading in it!

The pneumococci must have some very active and complete transferases in order to build up so many type-specific substances often from only a very few sugars. It ought to be possible to use such enzymes in vitro, perhaps with a little of the appropriate DNA to give direction to the process. I would gladly encourage you to go into it—it would take an experienced enzyme chemist, but with good bacteriological technique, for the bugs are virulent.

Sincerely,



Michael Heidelberg

MH:DP